SCS custody case
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Dear Mr. Freitas:

The Secretary has asked that I reply to your letter of November 25 concerning the child custody case of John Victor Stoen in Guyana.

We understand that John Stoen's mother has engaged attorneys Margaret Ryan and Jeffrey Haas to counsel her regarding court proceedings in Guyana to regain custody of her son. It is noted that Mrs. Stoen previously signed over custody of John to the religious group. Both Mr. Haas and Ms. Ryan have visited the Department of State to express their concern and to pose questions concerning the handling of a child custody court hearing in Guyana. They have been advised that the Embassy in Georgetown is prepared to offer all possible assistance to them and to Mrs. Stoen's Guyanese attorney if such assistance is required during the hearings scheduled for this month.

As you are no doubt aware, neither the Department of State nor the Superior Court for the State of California has the authority to enforce the order of November 18

Joseph Freitas, Jr., Esquire,
District Attorney
880 Bryant Street
San Francisco, California 94103

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